

Philosophy 645 SX: Seminar in Metaphysics

Requirements

The student is expected to write a seminar paper of approx. 7000 words, to be due at the end of the semester.

Tentative Schedule of Topics and Readings

Week One: Possible World and Their Critics

Reading: Graham Forbes, *Metaphysics of Modality*, Ch. 1-2; Michael Jubien, "Analyzing Modality"

Week Two: Conventionalism I

Reading: Alan Sidelle, selections from *Necessity, Essence and Individuation*

Week Three: Conventionalism II

Reading: Simon Blackburn, "Morals and Modals"; Ross Cameron, "On the Source of Necessity"; Alan Sidelle, "Conventions and the Contingency of Conventions"

Week Four: Modal Normativism

Reading: Robert Brandom, selections from *Between Saying and Doing*; Amie Thomasson, "Modal Normativism and the Methods of Metaphysics"

Week Five: Concepts and Modality

Reading: Christopher Peacocke, "Metaphysical Necessity"; Symposium on *Being Known* in *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*

Week Six: Essence and Modality

Reading: Kit Fine, "Essence and Modality" and "Senses of Essence"; Ross Cameron, "The Grounds of Necessity"

Week Seven: Grounding and Modality

Reading: Kit Fine, "Guide to Ground" and "Ontological Dependence"; Gideon Rosen, "Metaphysical Dependence"

Week Eight: Intro to Counterfactuals

Reading: David Lewis, selections from *Counterfactuals*

Week Nine: Counterfactuals and Modality

Reading: Marc Lange, selections from *Laws and Law-Makers*

Week Ten: Counterfactuals and Modality II

Reading: Lange, cont.

Week Eleven: Counterfactuals and Modality III

Reading: Boris Kment, "Counterfactuals and the Analysis of Necessity" and "Counterfactuals and Explanation"

Week Twelve: Counterpossibles

Reading: Daniel Nolan, "Impossible Worlds: A Modest Approach"; David Vander Laan, "Counterpossibles and Similarity"; Brogaard and Salerno, "Remarks on Counterpossibles"